(b) if so, whether Government would consider to change direction to the group of five members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) guidelines, a Self, Help Group (SHG) may generally consist of 10 to 20 persons. However, in difficult areas like deserts, hills and areas with scattered and sparse population and in case of minor irrigation and disabled persons, this number may be from 5 to 20. The difficult areas have to be identified by the State level SGSY Committee and the above relaxation in membership will be permitted only in such areas.

Including villages having starvation deaths into NREGS

†856. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that starvation deaths are continuing in many States like Uttar Pradesh, Orissa etc;

(b) if so, the State-wise details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact people dying of hunger don't have money to buy even the grains meant for relief;

(d) whether Government are considering to include such villages in Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No incident of starvation death has been reported from any State/UT Administration including Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) To ensure food security to all, the foodgrains is provided to people free of cost under Food for Work Programme, Annapurna and Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) for Orissa. Government is also providing foodgrains on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

loan basis under village Grain Bank Scheme to BPL/AAY families in chronically food scarce areas all over the country.

(d) and (e) In accordance with Section 1(3) of the Act, it shall be applicable to the whole country within a period of five years. The Act has already been implemented in 200 identified districts in the country with effect from 2.2.2006.

Increase in textile export after lifting of MFA

857. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) by how much India's textile export has increased following the lifting of the MFA;

(b) whether any assessment was made on export performance of India versus China, at present after five years and after 10 years; if so, the details including the present performance and future projections;

(c) how does this compare with the performance of China;

(d) what are the reasons for the difference between the two; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to remove these differences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The textile exports had been stagnating in the quota period in the range of US $10-13 billion. Textile exports recorded growth of 8.7% in 2003-04; negative growth of 3.4% in 2004-05. However, in the first year of quota regime *i.e.* 2005-06, textile exports increased from US $ 14.03 billion in 2004-05 to US$ 17.08 billion in 2005-06, recording a growth of 21.8%. As per latest available DGCI&S data, India's textile exports have amounted to US $ 6.1 billionn during the period April—July, 2006 recording a growth of 16.08% in comparison to the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) As per latest available WTO data, the textiles and clothing exports of China and India during the year 2005 have been as follows: